## Message Text

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R 080122Z JUL 76 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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QUOTE: CONFIDENTIAL USUN 2777

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, UNSC

SUBJ: CIRCULATION OF LEBANESE AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO

SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

REF: USUN 2756

1. ITALIAN CHARGE CAVAGLIERI CALLED ON AMBASSADOR BENNETT JULY 6 TO REVIEW SEQUENCE OF EVENTS SURROUNDING LEBANESE AMB. GHORRA'S REQUEST TO HAVE CIRCULATED HIS LETTER TO PRESIDENT OF SC AMB. VINCI (USUN 2724). ONLY DEVELOPMENTS IN ADDITION TO THOSE REPORTED IN REFERENCED CABLE ARE TWO LETTERS FROM LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER KARAME TO SC PRESIDENT VINCI (ITALY) AND A LEGAL OPINION FROM THE UN LEGAL COUNSEL. THE KARAME LETTERS (SEPTEL) STATE THAT CHAMOUN'S APPOINTMENT AS VICE PRESIDENT AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HIS DECISIONS IN THESE CAPACITIES ARE NULL AND VOID. LETTERS ALSO DECLARE THAT COMMUNICATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL FROM LEBANESE AMB. GHORRA SHOOULD BE DISREGARDED UNLESS APPROVED BY KARAME HIMSELF. THE OPINION OF THE LEGAL COUNSEL HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT BEEN RECEIVED AS YET BY THE MISSION, BUT WE HAVE LEARNED THAT ESSENTIALLY IT SUGGESTS THE SC SHOULD DETERMINE IF THERE

IS A CONTROVERSY.

2. AMB. BENNETT EMPHASIZED THAT A PRACTICE OF THIRTY YEARS OF CIRCULATING DOCUMENTS AS REQUESTED BY MEMBER-STATES ESTABLISHES A PRECEDENT IN WHICH THE U.S. SETS GREAT STORE. WHEN CABAGLIERI REMARKED THAT THIS WAS NOT A "RIGHT" OF MEMBER STATES, BENNETT COUNTERED THAT A PRACTICE OF SUCH LONG DURATION DID INDEED TAKE ON ASPECTS OF A "RIGHT", AND THAT THERE WAS FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE INVOLVED OF NOT ESTABLISHING A PRECEDENT WHEREBY A SC MEMBER COULD CHALLENGE ANY MEMBER STATE'S REQUEST THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S LETTERS OR DOCUMENTS BE CIRCULATED AS SC DOCUMENTS. CAVAGLIERI EXPLAINED THE PROBLEM OF RECEIVING COMMUNICATIONS FROM TWO FACTIONS OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, TO WHICH AMB. BENNETT REPLIED THAT THIS DILEMMA WHICH THE ITALIANS NOW CONFRONTED UNDERSOCRES THE IMPORTANCE OF ADHERING TO ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES AND THUS AVOIDING INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A NATION, IN THIS INSTANCE LEBANON.

3. IN A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AMB. GHORKA MET WITH SC PRESIDENT VINCI IN LATE AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS AT LENGTH THIS PROBLEM. WE ARE SEEKING OUTCOME OF THIS MEETING AND WILL REPORT IT IN LATER MESSAGE. ACCORDING TO LEBANESE MISSION GHORRA ALSO DISCUSSED MATTER WITH UNDER SECRETARY GUYER WHO SAID SECRETARIAT WAS IN QUANDRY AS HOW TO HANDLE KARAME'S LETTERS. SCRANTON

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

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